

voice now be in heaven above, since on earth thou didst ravish angels by its melodies!"

As music is the natural expression of man on earth, so also we know from Holy Writ that it is the language from heaven. There the joy of the blessed angels of God is expressed in divine and celestial song. There the angelic hosts are ever engaged in singing the praises of God and proclaiming His majesty; there the air is resonant with cries of joy, with the sweet concord of many sounds, mingled with the angelic harpers on their harps.

"Music has charms to soothe the savage breast." The wildest passions are controlled by music; we cannot exaggerate its power. When St. Ignatius' loyal sons went out to win souls to God in South America, the tribes met them armed. They would not listen to the message of peace and love, but with poisoned arrows awaited them on the river bank. One of the devoted soldiers of Christ took a musical instrument and commenced to play an old sacred melody, the others lifted up their voices and sweetly they sang the praises of Jesus and Mary. The sweet melody floated over the waters and resounded through the woods. The birds hushed their songs that they might hear. The savages, ravished with delight, cast away their weapons, plunged into the river following the musicians with captive hearts. Thus upon the bosom of song floated the first tidings of salvation to these benighted savages.

Music soothes sorrow and lightens the yoke of bondage. The sole remembrance of the canticles of Sion was a source of the saddest regret and at the same time a source of true consolation to the hearts of the Hebrews captive on the banks of the Euphrates. But what shall we say of the source of delight an impressionable race has found in the sweet strains of music!

It is a well known fact that the negroes found the burden of slavery immeasurably lightened whenever they could give free vent to their natural gift of song. Often when the worst passions are stirred a strain of music restores us to our wanted calm. Scripture says that when the evil spirit tormented Saul, David took his harp and played upon it, and the spirit departed, and the king was calmed.

When the stirring and martial sounds of the bugle are heard by the soldier, his heart beats quicker and all his nobler emotions are stirred up. Ask him what the bugle says and he will answer, "security—terror. Security for my country—terror to its foes." The tired soldier fights upon the battlefield all day and faces death in a thousand forms. Now he advances, now he retreats, every nerve is strung up, until at length nature appears to yield and the tired warrior seems unable to wield his sword any longer. But as soon as the national music strikes up, all the martial fire is aroused. Valor, patriotism is raised within him, wounds, weariness, forgotten. Music has strengthened him—he springs to arms, rushes to the front of the battle again and sweeps the enemy from the field.

But oh! how sorrowful the sound of the same instruments when the body of a brave companion is committed to the grave! When the blighting hand of disease is laid upon us, and life is stripped of its flowers, when we see "*vanity*" written on all things earthly, music comes to give us peace and makes us forgetful of pains and suffering. Therefore,

Let a taste for music be cultivated in the rising generation and the results cannot be but good. Even in a moral point of view it is thoroughly humanizing in its influence and therefore should be cultivated in every home. "A home without music is much like